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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 1**  
**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003**

**INTRODUCED BY**  
Cynthia Nava

**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**  
**REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND THE FEDERAL**  
**GOVERNMENT'S SHARE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN PUBLIC**  
**ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE**  
**FEDERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.**

**WHEREAS, since its enactment in 1975, the federal**  
**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has helped millions**  
**of children with special needs receive a quality education and**  
**develop to their full capacities; and**

**WHEREAS, the federal Individuals with Disabilities**  
**Education Act has moved children with disabilities out of**  
**institutions and into public school classrooms with their**  
**peers; and**

**WHEREAS, the federal Individuals with Disabilities**  
**Education Act has helped break down stereotypes and dispel**

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1 ignorance about people with disabilities, thus improving the  
2 quality of life and economic opportunity for millions of  
3 Americans; and

4 WHEREAS, when the federal government enacted the  
5 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, it promised to  
6 fund up to forty percent of the average per special needs pupil  
7 expenditure in public elementary and secondary schools in the  
8 United States; and

9 WHEREAS, the federal government currently funds, on  
10 average, less than fourteen percent of the average per special  
11 needs pupil expenditure in public elementary and secondary  
12 schools in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, local school districts and state government end  
14 up bearing the largest share of the cost of special education  
15 services; and

16 WHEREAS, the federal government's failure to adequately  
17 fulfill its responsibility to special needs children undermines  
18 public support for special education and creates hardship for  
19 disabled children and their families;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the president and congress be urged to  
22 fund forty percent of the average per special needs pupil  
23 expenditure in public elementary and secondary schools in the  
24 United States as promised under the federal Individuals with  
25 Disabilities Education Act to ensure that all children,

1 regardless of disability, receive a quality education and are  
2 treated with the dignity and respect they deserve; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 sent to the president of the United States, the speaker of the  
5 house of representatives of the United States, the president of  
6 the United States senate and the members of the New Mexico  
7 congressional delegation.

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